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CIA/SAVA /WVIND 730106



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WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending January 6, 1973

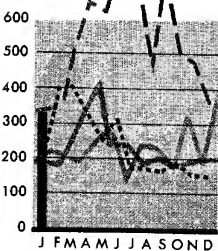
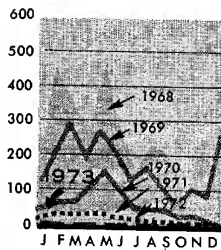
NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

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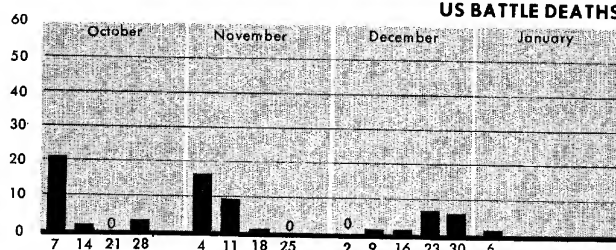
SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1973
Weekly average for each month

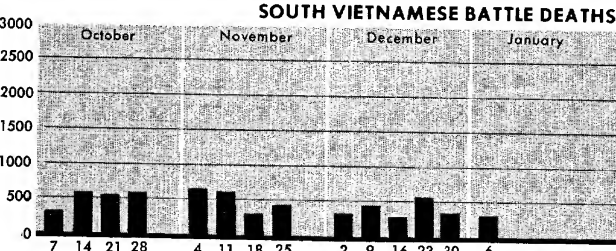


OCTOBER 1972 — JANUARY 1973
Weekly data as reported

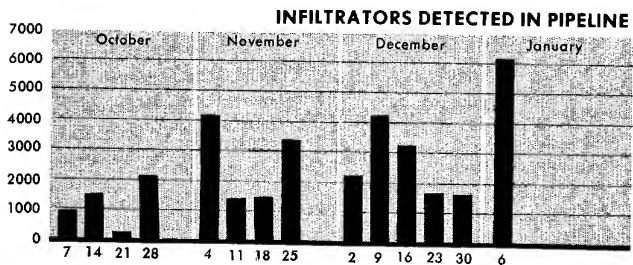
US BATTLE DEATHS dropped to one from the five of the previous week.



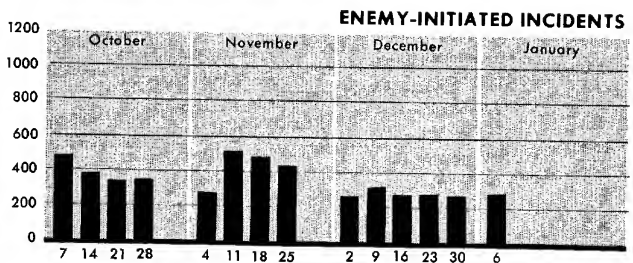
SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS totaled 324 for the week. This figure is preliminary and may change considerably as more complete information becomes available.



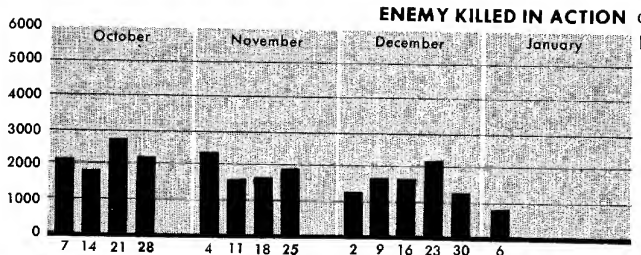
INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE include eight regular, six "gap fill," and nine special purpose groups totaling 6,288 personnel. The estimate of infiltrators destined for South Vietnam and Cambodia since 1 October 1972 now stands at some 34,700 - 36,700.



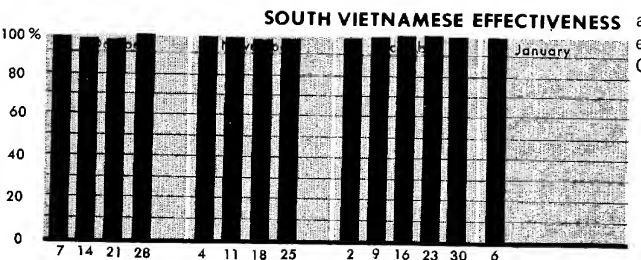
ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS rose slightly to 281 from last week's 264.



ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION dropped to 923 from the 1,288 of last week



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS as measured by the percentage of enemy killed in ground combat by GVN forces remained at 100%.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

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Enemy Activity

During the past week, enemy-initiated military activity in South Vietnam increased sharply for about three days in Military Regions (MRs) 3 and 4, but has since declined to moderate levels. Most of the enemy attacks were of small size and caused only a few casualties and comparatively minor damage. In MR 1, North Vietnamese units remained on the defensive but continued their stubborn resistance to forces pushing northward toward the Cua Viet River from Quang Tri City. In MR 2, enemy activity has been limited primarily to harassment of ARVN positions in the Central Highlands and interdiction attempts against Route 19 between Kontum and Pleiku Cities. In general, although some evidence suggests that Communist forces may attempt another "highpoint" within the next few weeks, the scale of enemy activity in South Vietnam will probably remain at about present levels.

In Laos, the expected Communist counterattacks against friendly positions near the southern panhandle town of Saravane have finally begun. These attacks have placed two friendly mobile group headquarters in jeopardy and the situation has been declared critical by the local commander. In the central panhandle, heavy fighting has also flared up east of Thakhek. The town itself came under enemy rocket fire on 6 January. In northern Laos, action on the Bouam Long and Long Tieng front diminished during the week. The government has been unsuccessful, however, in its efforts to clear Route 13, the vital road link between Luang Prabang and Vientiane which was cut last week by Deuanist Neutralists. Fighting along this highway has forced large numbers of villagers from their homes, and these refugees are now moving south toward the Vientiane Plain.

Khmer Communist forces in Cambodia are continuing to attack scattered government positions along Routes 2 and 3 in the south. One of the three government battalions assigned to reinforce Tram Khnar on Route 3, some 20 miles south of Phnom Penh, managed to join the defenders of that town on 6 January. The two other battalions, however, were forced back by Communist action. Several scattered Communist attacks also occurred in the outskirts of Phnom Penh at week's end, and may presage an increase in enemy harassment activity around the capital.

Enemy Infiltration and Logistics

During the week, 3,288 NVA personnel were newly detected in the infiltration pipeline, and another 3,000 troops who had begun their movement south earlier were accepted in our estimate as "gap fills." With these additions, the estimated number of infiltrators detected moving southward to South Vietnam and Cambodia since 1 October 1972 now stands at 34,700 - 36,700.

In logistical activity, intercepted messages from the Vinh area indicate that 351 tons of supplies were to be shipped south during a brief three-day transportation "offensive" scheduled for the period 30 December 1972 - 1 January 1973. The supplies involved were to include 339 tons of ordnance and 12 tons of other war related materials. In comparison with earlier shipments, this amount is fairly small, and the Communist supply efforts in the southern part of the country apparently continue to feel the effects of the recent intensive bombing attacks against the lines of communication out of the main transportation network in the Hanoi-Haiphong area.

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